

House Resolution No. 2067

Whereas, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives always welcome the opportunity to acknowledge milestone events in the lives and careers of Show-Me State entrepreneurs who have developed and maintained exceptional reputations for business leadership; and

Whereas, Joe Helmsing has attained distinction as the President of Craftsmen Industries, Incorporated; and

Whereas, Joe Helmsing entered the trailer manufacturing industry during his third year of studies at Saint Louis University in 1968, continued with his educational pursuits to earn a Master of Business Administration degree in 1972, and purchased Lawrence Canvas in 1977 in partnership with his brother, Bob; and

Whereas, Lawrence Canvas was a company which started with five employees and steadily grew to fifty during the astute guidance of the Helmsing siblings, who purchased Foremost Manufacturing three years after their acquisition of Lawrence Canvas; and

Whereas, with Foremost Manufacturing following the illustrious growth pattern established by Lawrence Canvas, Joe Helmsing utilized an SBA 503 loan to purchase the repair division of Southwest Truck Body Company and then changed its name to Craftsmen Industries during deregulation of the trucking industry; and

Whereas, in the late 1980s Joe Helmsing and his brother separated ownership of their companies, and Joe assumed control of Craftsmen Industries to lead it into the formerly unknown business territory of mobile marketing; and

Whereas, Joe Helmsing continued following his traditions of hard work, common sense, and building a solid reputation in order to add such services as fiberglass and graphics projects, bring the employee roster to more than two hundred names, and shift to larger facilities in St. Charles:

Now, therefore, be it resolved that we, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives, Ninety-second General Assembly, join unanimously to applaud the well-deserved selection of Joe Helmsing as Missouri Small Business Person of the Year by Small Business Week of St. Louis and to convey to him this legislative body's heartiest congratulations and our best wishes for continued personal and business success for many more years to come; and

Be it further resolved that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for Joe Helmsing of Craftsmen Industries, Incorporated.

Offered by _____
Representative Neal St. Onge
District No. 88

I, Catherine L. Hanaway, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Ninety-second General Assembly, First Regular Session, do certify that the above is a true and correct copy of House Resolution No. 2067, adopted April 22, 2003.

Catherine L. Hanaway, Speaker